

Annex A

DIRECTION & CONTROL

I. MISSION

To establish an Emergency Operations Center (*EOC*) from which the Governor, or his/her designee, can direct and control emergency operations statewide.

When a tropical system, or the remnants of a tropical system, is threatening coastal Virginia, or the remnants of a tropical system which made landfall along the Gulf coast is tracking into inland Virginia, the VEOC monitors the situation and will be augmented accordingly. The VEOC will be staffed to collect information, review status of pre-landfall protective actions, produce the required reports and coordinate requests for assistance from local governments.

II. ORGANIZATION

The state response to the event will be under the direction of the State Coordinator, who reports directly to the Governor, or their designee. The supporting VEOC staff may also be part of the VERT.

In the event of a hurricane, federal staff and resources may be available to augment and supplement state and local emergency operations. DHS/FEMA Headquarters may designate a Principle Federal Official (*PFO*).

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

When an approaching tropical cyclone system (*tropical storm or hurricane*) threatens the Commonwealth, the Governor will issue an Executive Order authorizing the use of state resources to supplement the efforts and resources of local governments and relief organizations in preventing or alleviating the damage, loss and hardship when it is evident that the situation is beyond their capability or expertise. Local governments shall implement their Emergency Operations Plan as needed in order to protect public safety and property.

- A. The VEOC will disseminate the issuance of an Executive Order to the Governor's Cabinet, state agency directors, state agencies, and local government via established communications pathways.
- B. When severe weather events are developing, the Watch Center will monitor the situation and disseminate appropriate weather information on a continuous basis to the Governor's Cabinet, state agency directors, state agencies, and local governments as prescribed in guidance documents and procedures.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Hurricane Response Plan Volume V**

Concept of Operations - Continued



- C. The VDEM Hurricane Program Manager and/or the Hurricane Program Planner will relocate to the VEOC at Readiness Condition 4. The Hurricane Program Manager or designee will make preparation to provide technical planning guidance and assistance with evacuation decisions using HURREVAC, hurricane tracking models and other tools.
- D. The VEOC will conduct conference calls with National Weather Services, state agencies, and local governments to discuss the weather forecast (*i.e., storm arrival and potential impact*) and operational issues, including evacuation and sheltering. Daily situation reports must be submitted by each affected local EOC to the VEOC with the frequency of reports increasing as the situation dictates.
- E. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (*RACES*) will serve as an alternate or backup means of communications between the VEOC and affected locality EOC's.
- F. VDEM resources may be available and deployed, as needed for on-scene emergency operations and/or communications purposes.
- G. After the impact, if local government is unable to provide the capability and expertise to effectively manage the event, the VEOC shall coordinate request(s) for state assistance. Should the event be beyond the capability of the state to respond, the VEOC will coordinate with DHS/FEMA for federal assistance to the impacted area.
- H. In collaboration with the DHS/FEMA, State and local governments, the VEOC will deploy Preliminary Damage Assessment (*PDA*) Teams to document the impact on individuals, families, businesses and public property.
- I. During recovery operations, the major activity may shift to a forward location(s) near the impacted area(s) in order to more effectively support state and local recovery.
- J. The Joint Information Center (*JIC*), when established, will coordinate all public news releases.

IV. NON-COASTAL TROPICAL EVENT

When the remnants of a tropical system which made landfall along the Gulf coast is tracking into inland Virginia, the VEOC monitors the situation and will be augmented accordingly. The VEOC will collect information, review status of post-landfall protective actions as may be necessary for the threat, produce the required reports and coordinate requests for assistance from local governments. Under such conditions, forecast or threats for heavy rainfall, major thunderstorm activity and possible tornado activity resulting in possible inland flooding and abnormal wind impacts may cause substantial damage to the Commonwealth. In such cases where Flood Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service, the specific wind thresholds for the implementation of the above Readiness Conditions may not exist. In such cases the VEOC will continue operations at an Increased Readiness level according to the level of threat to the Commonwealth.

V. EVACUATION ACTION TIMELINE

Evacuation Action Timeline

| Readiness Condition | Hours/Days to Arrival <i>Tropical Storm Winds</i> | Actions | Approximate Track Error |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| RC-4 <i>(144-96 Hours)</i> | 144 Hours <i>(6 Days)</i> | Activation of Virginia Evacuation Coordination Team for Operational Response (<i>VECTOR</i>) | <i>Not Available</i> |
| | 120 Hours <i>(5 Days)</i> | Governor's Emergency Declaration | <i>Not Available</i> |
| RC-3 <i>(96-48 Hours)</i> | 96 Hours <i>(4 Days)</i> | Pre-Position State Resources State Agency Personnel & Supplies DSS ,VSP, VDOT, VaNG, & OEMS | @230 nm |
| | 72 Hours <i>(3 Days)</i> | Governor's Evacuation Briefing | @175 nm |
| RC-2 <i>(48-24 Hours)</i> | 48 Hours <i>(2 Days)</i> |  NHC Issue Hurricane "WATCH" | @115 nm |
| | 48 Hours | Governor's Consultation of Mandatory Evacuation w/ Local Officials | @115 nm |
| | 38 Hours | Implement Mandatory Evacuation | |
| | 36 Hours |  NHC Issue Hurricane "WARNING" | @100 nm |
| | 36 Hours | Governor's Lane Reversal Decision Point | @100 nm |
| | 30 Hours | Implement Lane Reversal Evacuation | |
| RC-1 <i>(24-0 Hour)</i> | 24 Hours <i>(1 Day)</i> | Continue Evacuation | @65 nm |
| | 12 Hours | Continue Evacuation | @40 nm |
| | 6 Hours | Initiate Termination of Evacuation & Lane Reversal | |
| | 0 Hour | <i>Arrival of Tropical Storm Force Winds</i> | |

VI. DIRECTION & CONTROL – LANE REVERSAL

A. Mandatory Lane Reversal Evacuation

- 1) At **48 hours**, following the completion of the Governor’s conference call with local Chief Elected Officials, the State Coordinator or designee will advise Virginia State Police (*VSP*), Virginia Department of Military Affairs (*VDMA*) and Virginia Department of Transportation (*VDOT*) to preposition for Lane Reversal evacuation in accordance with the Virginia Hurricane Lane Reversal Plan. The State Coordinator or designee will advise the Office of the Governor, Secretary of Public Safety and the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness. VDEM Public Information Officer (*PIO*) activates the ESF #15 (*External Affairs*) to ensure public notification.
- 2) At **46 hours**, the VERT Plans Section will conduct a conference call with at-risk local emergency managers and state agencies to inform them of the Governor’s decision regarding Lane Reversal and the pre-positioning of state resources.
- 3) At no later than **38 hours**, inform localities of the implementation of evacuation for all Non-Lane Reversal evacuees using Routes 58 & 460 through Bowers Hill. Recommend localities prepare to open their pre-identified “refuges of last resort”, as necessary.
- 4) At **36 hours** begin with the initial securing and sweeping of I-64 eastbound for westbound traffic for evacuation if the storm is forecasted to make landfall at Category 3 or higher, or as may be determined based upon the threat to the Commonwealth
- 5) The VEOC will advise North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (*NCEOC*) of Governor’s Mandatory Lane Reversal Evacuation decision.
- 6) At **30 hours** Virginia Department of Transportation (*VDOT*) will implement lane reversal evacuation as authorized. The State Coordinator or designee will advise the Office of the Governor, Secretary of Public Safety and the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness. The VEOC will advise Virginia State Police (*VSP*) liaison, Virginia Department of Military Affairs (*VDMA*) liaison, localities and the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (*NCEOC*) of the evacuation implementation.
- 7) At **8 hours**, VERT Coordinator will confer with the State Coordinator or designee regarding the termination of Lane Reversal Evacuation and initiate road clearance at **6 hours**, in accordance with the Virginia Hurricane Lane Reversal Plan. State Coordinator or designee will advise the Office of the Governor, Secretary of Public Safety and the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness. VERT Coordinator will advise Virginia State Police (*VSP*) liaison, Virginia Department of Military Affairs (*VDMA*) liaison and Virginia Department of Transportation (*VDOT*) Transportation Operations Center (*TOC*) and advise the localities.
- 8) At **7 hours**, VERT Plans Section will conduct a conference call with localities and state agencies and coordinate the preparation to terminate Lane Reversal Evacuation and initiate road clearance at **6 hours** before the arrival of tropical storm force winds.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Hurricane Response Plan Volume V**

- 9) At **6 hours**, terminate Lane Reversal Evacuation; Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia State Police (VSP) and Virginia Department of Military Affairs (VDMA) resources will initiate road clearance of reversed lanes before the arrival of tropical storm force winds. Evacuees still enroute will be directed to “refuges of last resort” by local authorities where refuges are available.
- 10) VEOC will monitor Lane Reversal evacuation activities and will respond as requested to incidents.

B. Non- Lane Reversal Evacuation

- 1) At approximately **48 hours** prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds the Governor will convey his decision for mandatory evacuation via conference call with the Hampton Roads Chief Elected Officials. The Governor will convey that evacuation will proceed without utilizing the Virginia Hurricane Lane Reversal Plan.
- 2) At **46 hours**, VERT Plans Section will conduct a conference call with localities and state agencies to inform them of the Governor’s decision regarding evacuation.
- 3) At **38 hours** discuss the implementation of evacuation for all At-Risk evacuees. Notify localities to identify and staff “refuges of last resort”, as necessary.
- 11) VEOC will monitor mandatory evacuation activities and will respond as requested to incidents.